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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Johann Arnold, Church Communities International, Rifton, New York, offered the following prayer:

Lord, we thank Thee for another day and for another chance to serve Thee and our beloved Nation.

Before Thee we are like little children who do not know how to carry out our duties. Therefore, we ask, like King Solomon, not for long life, not for wealth for ourselves, not for the death of our enemies, but for discernment to administer justice and to distinguish between right and wrong. Let us together heed the words of the Apostle John: "If we love one another, God dwelleth in us." Let us hope that this spirit will become the order of the day right here in Washington.

We pray for our President, for our Madam Speaker, and for all our brothers and sisters in the House and in the Senate, for our servicemen and -women and their families. We pray for our beloved Nation. May it always be under the rulership of God. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KLEIN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1129. An act to provide for the construction, operation, and maintenance of an arterial road in St. Louis County, Missouri.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 276n of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, appoints the following Senator as Chairman of the United States-China Interparliamentary Group conference during the One Hundred Tenth Congress:

The Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE).

The message also announced that pursuant to section 276n of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, appoints the following Senator as Vice Chairman of the United States-China Interparliamentary Group conference during the One Hundred Tenth Congress:

The Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS).

The message also announced that pursuant to section 276d-276g of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senator as Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group conference during the One Hundred Tenth Congress:

The Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR).

WELCOMING REVEREND JOHANN CHRISTOPH ARNOLD

(Mr. HINCHEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure and honor to introduce a dear friend of mine and a very respected member of our community, Johann Christoph Arnold, for his opening prayer as the guest chaplain of the House of Representatives today.

Pastor Johann Christoph Arnold and his wife, Verena, are senior pastors of Church Communities International, an international movement that is dedicated to peace around the world. They work very diligently and very effectively with families, with individuals, with veterans, and a host of other people to bring them the kind of counseling and conciliation they need in many communities.

Pastor Arnold and his wife, Verena, are the parents of eight children and 34 grandchildren. For over 35 years as family counselors, they have advised thousands of couples in our community and in many other places here in the United States and around the world. People have come to expect sound advice from this award-winning author, whose books have sold over 350,000 copies in English and have been translated into 19 other languages.

It is a great pleasure and an honor to have Johann Christoph Arnold, his wife, Verena, and other members of

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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their community here with us this morning; and I thank him very much for his opening prayer.

OPPOSING THE IRAQ FUNDING BILL

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. At present, Congress has before it, for consideration in committee, an Iraq funding bill which will keep the war going perhaps through the end of President Bush's term. It would order the privatization of Iraq's oil and open the door for the President to order an attack on Iran without congressional authorization.

Democrats were brought to power not to spread war, but to stop it. The administration took us into war for oil. We should not be confirming that purpose by promoting privatization in the Iraq funding bill.

The President desires to attack Iran without Congress asserting its constitutional authority. We should be asserting our constitutional authority to restrain another administration abuse of power.

DEMOCRATIC PLAN FOR IRAQ IS RECIPE FOR FAILURE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Friday's *The Post and Courier* of Charleston, South Carolina, detailed the dire consequences of setting artificial timelines for withdrawal from Iraq. The editorial states that it would be tragic if the rug should be pulled from under U.S. forces by the U.S. Congress.

The political message coming from House Democrats threatens to throw efforts to stabilize Iraq off balance. As *The Post and Courier*, where I was a former reporter, concludes, General Petraeus should be given the time and forces he needs to succeed, and not a legislative recipe for failure. Democrats and Republicans should be united to remember that al Qaeda spokesman for Osama bin Laden, Zawahiri, has clearly identified that Iraq and Afghanistan are the central fronts in the global war on terrorism. Bin Laden has specifically stated, "The most serious issue today for the whole world is this Third World War that is raging in Iraq."

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

SUBPRIME LENDING

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, in the last 2 weeks, we have

seen a tsunami of foreclosures and turmoil in the subprime markets. The Federal regulators' recent joint guidance to stop issuance of loans that borrowers can't repay in full is a good first step, but lenders won't make bad loans if no one will buy them. The secondary market must stop buying the loans causing this crisis.

Freddie Mac did this voluntarily, and I am introducing legislation to require all the housing GSEs to do the same. In the interim, I call on Fannie Mae and the Federal Home Loan Banks to follow Freddie Mac and stop buying these risky loans. Both Congress and the GSEs must act to protect homeowners and stabilize the system.

BUILDING A STRONG WORKFORCE BY IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Employers spend over \$26 billion per year in direct medical costs to treat depression. But the indirect costs, including lost productivity and absenteeism, increased spending by some \$51.5 billion per year, but appropriate treatment for depression reduces health care costs for businesses.

The National Institutes of Mental Health reported depression treatments reduce absenteeism and save money. Plans for Federal employees where mental health coverage is included in their health care plan also saves money.

Employers and Members of Congress should review the benefits of mental health insurance coverage and note that coverage of mental health treatment can also significantly reduce public health care spending on Medicare, Medicaid and our criminal justice programs.

I would urge all my colleagues to review how businesses and the Federal Government can save money on this by reviewing my Web site at murphy.house.gov. And remember, patient-centered health care saves lives and money by emphasizing patient safety, patient quality and patient choice.

DANIA BEACH/SOLAR ENERGY

(Mr. KLEIN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. I am RON KLEIN, and I represent Florida's 22nd Congressional District in south Florida.

Today, I am honoring the city of Dania Beach, a community in south-east Florida, for investing in a \$1 million solar energy system to power the city's streetlights. Not only is this an innovative and environmentally sound decision made by the city of Dania Beach, but it is also a decision that

will strengthen the safety of the community.

After Hurricane Wilma struck, Dania Beach could not restore its power and the pole damage quickly enough, leaving the city streets without lighting for a lengthy period of time. With the new solar panels, the streetlights will not be dependent on electricity, and the panels will be mounted to withstand even the most fierce hurricane winds.

I applaud this sort of ground-breaking, innovative way of thinking. Alternative energy sources are the way of the future. If more communities around the country would follow Dania Beach's lead, we would leave our environment in a much better condition for our children and our grandchildren.

CAIR MEETING

(Mr. McHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, House Democrats and the Speaker of the House arranged for a conference room in the Capitol to be used by the Council on American-Islamic Relations, or CAIR, an Islamic advocacy group which refuses to disavow terrorist groups like Hamas and Hezbollah.

CAIR officials have been charged with, and some convicted of, offenses related to the support of terrorism, including a CAIR fundraiser, Rabi Haddad, as well as a founding board member and a former CAIR civil rights coordinator.

Most notably, the CAIR fund-raiser Haddad was deported to Lebanon in 2003 after being arrested in a raid on an Islamic charity that Federal officials said, "provided assistance to Osama bin Laden and the al Qaeda network and other known terrorist groups."

Apparently, the Democrats live in some parallel universe where it is okay to set up a meeting in the Capitol for a group with known terrorist ties. The American people must ask about this colossal failure of judgment. With friends like these, imagine our enemies.

CONGRESS CANNOT AFFORD TO GIVE THE PRESIDENT ANOTHER BLANK CHECK ON IRAQ WAR

(Mr. PERLMUTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Good morning, Mr. Speaker.

After 4 years, billions of dollars and thousands of lives, President Bush is once again asking Congress to reward failure with a blank check for the war in Iraq. Many of my Republican colleagues are more than willing to give the President anything he wants, but Democrats refuse to be a rubber stamp for the President's failed policies and, instead, want to finally require Iraqis to take control of their country. And yet the President has threatened to